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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Asia Crime Prevention Foundation

(Special consultative status granted 1991)

Aims and purposes

The Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF) (Asia Keisei Zaidan, in Japanese) is a non-governmental organization established on 17 February 1982 and granted consultative status in May 1991. Its aim is to promote sustainable development, peace and stability in Asia and the world through more effective crime prevention and criminal justice policies and practices and mutual cooperation among all those concerned. ACPF seeks to enhance the capabilities of personnel working in this field through appropriate training programmes, especially those organized by the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) and its alumni network. It also promotes collaborative action-orientated research and information exchange, organizing world conferences for discussion and action in areas of mutual concern, fostering joint strategies and viable approaches in line with United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice.

By facilitating continuing contacts and ongoing cooperation among its members, many of them in decision-making positions, ACPF reinforces the bonds of solidarity among its growing constituency, which includes partners in the private sector and the scholarly community. It undertakes various activities, publishes materials and sponsors special initiatives in support of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

ACPF continues to enlarge its membership and activities. In order to attain its ultimate goal of prosperity without crime in Asia and the world, ACPF is pursuing more comprehensive goals which cover wider areas of socio-economic activity, including issues concerning children, women in development, the protection of the environment, elimination of extreme poverty, and protection of international commerce. As UNAFEI has widened its geographical range to receive trainees from Africa and South America, the membership has increased to over 16,000.

Participation in United Nations activities

The Chairperson of ACPF attended all of the annual sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice from 1995 to 1998 and submitted written statements and/or made oral statements. ACPF played a significant role at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995). The Chairperson of ACPF is a member of the Board of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and participated in its annual meetings and in the regular meetings of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in Vienna and New York.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

ACPF has financially and technically contributed to various United Nations projects: the Ninth United Nations Congress, with $30,000 for publicizing the Conference, in 1995; ESCAP's Model Project for Prevention of Juvenile Crimes in the Community, with an expert from UNAFEI and a grant of $20,000, in 1996; United Nations Office at Vienna with a painting, depicting a pair of sacred birds "Ho-o", as a symbol of peace and justice, in 1997, in commemoration of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary. The United Nations Postal Administration issued a pair of stamps based on the painting in 1998; the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention, with a grant of $50,000 for research on world crime and criminal justice, in 1997, the result of which was published as a book, *Global Report on Crime and Justice*, by Oxford University Press, in 1999.

ACPF continues to support UNAFEI by defraying a substantial part of the costs of the regular international training and seminar courses conducted at its headquarters, in Fuchu, Tokyo, amounting to an average total of $100,000 a year.

Other relevant activities

Since 1992, ACPF has held an annual world conference in different countries of the region with attendance of local dignitaries, chapter heads, officers and the membership of ACPF as a whole. International symposia related to major United Nations priorities, as reflected at the Congress and in the work programme, have been held in conjunction with these conferences. The Fourth World Conference, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 15-17 November 1995, and the Fifth, held in Seoul, Korea, 30 October to 1 November 1996, were accompanied by symposia on the same key theme, "Identification of urgent crime prevention and criminal justice problems in Asia requiring more effective regional cooperation" with the following subtopics: extradition of criminals; trust of the public towards criminal justice agencies; role of criminal laws; environmental crime; and drug control. Between the conferences and after the Fifth Conference, several working groups were convened in order to deliberate further on some

designated subtopics by experts in the region. Through those discussions, problems were clarified and finally manifested in the Shizuoka Declaration of the Sixth World Conference, held in Japan, 28-31 October 1997. The Shizuoka Declaration (E/CN.15/1998/NGO/1) was quoted often at other United Nations meetings, such as the Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth United Nations Crime Congress and the Asian Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime. Since 1998 the World Conference is being convened biennially, and subregional conferences will be held in in-between years. The Pacific Islands Conference, on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters in the New Millennium, held in Fiji, 13-18 July 1998, was convened by the Prime Minister of Fiji.

2. Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants

(Special consultative status granted 1983)

Introduction

The Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) has 19 member associations in different parts of the world. In the past four years, one new member joined, Addis Ababa, and one member in Copenhagen ceased operations and transferred its membership to Geneva. New associations are in the process of being formed in Athens, Bangkok, Beirut, Cairo, Guatemala City, Kinshasa, Lagos, Nairobi and Quito.

FAFICS undertakes to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations system and support the work of the Organization and bodies of the system, both directly and through its member associations, in accordance with their individual competencies.

FAFICS represents former United Nations officials on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, the International Civil Service Commission, and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions. Its other activities include social contacts among former and current officials, mutual help among members, and the fostering of the concept of an international community.

Participation in United Nations meetings

FAFICS participated or attended meetings of the following United Nations bodies: Commission on Human Rights, Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Commission for Social Development, Commission on Sustainable Development, and Commission on the Status of Women. FAFICS is also a member of the Conference on NGOs and has participated in all of its meetings, including its Committee on Ageing.

FAFICS participated in sessions of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and its Standing Committee, on which bodies it is the official representative of all United Nations system pensioners; in sessions of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC); and in sessions of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and its Task Force on Long-Term Care.

1996

The FAFICS Committee on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, set up in August 1994, continued to work throughout 1995, and into 1996. FAFICS was represented at the Habitat II Conference and the NGO Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996.

1997

FAFICS actively participated in the preparations for the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 1998), devoting an issue of the AFICS (NY) *Bulletin* to the anniversary and holding a fall luncheon on the theme of human rights.

FAFICS followed the Council meetings dealing with the consultative relationship of non-governmental organizations with the United Nations. It was noted with interest that few changes were made in the original resolution on that subject, and procedures for FAFICS to make statements on relevant topics at the committee level were not changed.

FAFICS stressed the importance attached to the removal of anti-personnel mines and to international efforts to ban the production, sale and use of landmines in armed conflicts. It circulated information designed to generate governmental support for the Anti-Landmine Convention, opened for signatures on 3 December 1998 in Ottawa, Canada.

1998

FAFICS emphasized the fiftieth anniversary observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1998. Arrangements were made to have the anniversary launched at a fall luncheon, with former Ambassador William J. Vanden Heuvel, President of the Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and Chairman of the National

Coordinating Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the main speaker.

A special programme devoted to the anniversary was held in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium in New York on 3 November 1998, preceding the special luncheon. The programme included songs by the United Nations Singers, the showing of a new United Nations video on human rights and an address by the Director of the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In observance of the fiftieth anniversary, FAFICS installed a marble plaque in the pavement at the site of the Eleanor Roosevelt memorial in the United Nations garden. On 17 December 1998, the plaque, which was donated to the United Nations to mark the anniversary, was unveiled by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

FAFICS began discussing its role for the forthcoming International Year of Older Persons (1999) and its plans for observing the Year.

1999

FAFICS was actively involved in the work of the International Year of Older Persons and assisted in the global video conference that was held on 11 February 1999. FAFICS is collaborating in a study on housing facilities for older persons in poor neighbourhoods and in a statement on the International Year of Older Persons which will be delivered to the General Assembly on 4 and 5 October 1999.

Also during 1999, FAFICS was represented at the meetings of the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Sustainable Development and at the United Nations/NGO Committee on Ageing.

Other substantive activities

In their local areas, member associations have cooperated with other non-governmental organizations in activities such as tree-planting, removal of landmines, the 1999 International Year of Older Persons, care for underprivileged children, and public health. Individual members of FAFICS associations continue to offer their expertise to the United Nations and specialized agency development efforts.

3. Global 2000

(General consultative status granted 1995)

The mission of Global 2000, a programme of the Carter Center since 1986, is to fight poverty, disease, hunger, and social injustice in rural areas of developing countries through capacity-building programmes that encourage sustainable development and equitable and responsible use of resources.

In this first quadrennial report since Global 2000 was granted consultative status, only the following United Nations-related programmes will be described: dracunculiasis eradication; onchocerciasis control; lymphatic filariasis elimination and schistosomiasis control; trachoma control, and international human rights.

Dracunculiasis eradication

Since 1986, Global 2000 has been the lead non-governmental organization supporting the global campaign to eradicate dracunculiasis. This role was recognized in 1997 when the World Bank made Global 2000 the executing agency of the World Bank Trust Fund for Dracunculiasis Eradication. Global 2000 is part of a coalition of organizations (including UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, the World Bank, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United States Peace Corps) that support national eradication efforts in dracunculiasis endemic countries. The coalition, the Interagency Coordinating Group for Dracunculiasis Eradication, meets from two to three times a year to review the status of national programmes, coordinate activities, and help endemic countries overcome impediments in their efforts to eradicate this disease.

Global 2000 provides financial and technical assistance to ministries of health in developing village-based surveillance systems for the detection and containment of dracunculiasis cases and in instituting preventive measures, including health education and treatment of the disease. In southern Sudan, for example, Global 2000 has worked very closely with Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) in coordinating dracunculiasis eradication activities with other non-governmental organizations. In 1997, OLS named Global 2000 as the lead organization for dracunculiasis eradication activities in Sudan. The benefits of the eradication campaign, beyond the irrevocable achievement of eradication, are: improved agricultural productivity; more rapid economic development of formerly endemic communities; increased capacity of each endemic country's infrastructure to meet

other health challenges, and greater hopefulness among local people.

Global 2000 has contributed to the publication of 43 issues of *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up*, a publication of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis at CDC, which chronicles the status of the global eradication campaign. Since January 1995, Global 2000 has subsidized the publication of the French version of this publication. In addition, Global 2000 prepared programme updates for publication in leading scientific journals. Since 1995, a total of 97 articles on the eradication of dracunculiasis have been published: 11 in United Nations journals and magazines, 12 in WHO's *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, five in the CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, and 69 in other scientific journals. About one third of these articles were prepared by the staff of Global 2000. Most of the proceedings of review meetings have also been prepared by Global 2000, in collaboration with CDC and WHO, for distribution to national programmes and collaborating organizations. In addition, with support from WHO and UNICEF, Global 2000 has sponsored two African regional conferences on dracunculiasis eradication (in Accra, Ghana, in 1996, and in Bamako, Mali, in 1998).

Since 1989, dracunculiasis incidence has been reduced by 98 per cent, and since 1995, by 74 per cent.

Onchocerciasis control

In collaboration with WHO, UNDP, FAO, and the World Bank, Global 2000 works closely with the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) and participates in annual meetings of all of its partners, called the Joint Action Forum. The Carter Center, represented by Global 2000, has an institutional seat on the Technical Consultative Committee, the technical body of APOC, and on several WHO committees and on the Programme Coordinating Committee of the Onchocerciasis Elimination Programme for the Americas (OEPA).

OEPA is a technical and coordinating body. In order to eliminate all onchocerciasis morbidity from the Americas by the year 2007, Global 2000, through fieldwork and governance activities, provides the administrative support for OEPA. Under the auspices of PAHO, Global 2000 also provides financial support for the annual Inter-American Conference on Onchocerciasis (IACO), which serves as a forum where participating countries can discuss progress being made in achieving the goal of onchocerciasis elimination. In 1997, IACO called for the initiation of a formal process for certifying the elimination of onchocerciasis in the Americas.

Since 1995, Global 2000 has written six articles for the *World Epidemiological Record* and one article in the WHO *Bulletin*. It participated in or sponsored 13 APOC meetings and eight OEPA meetings.

Since 1995, Global 2000 has enabled more than 17.7 million treatments to be administered for onchocerciasis.

Lymphatic filariasis elimination/ schistosomiasis control

In response to a World Health Assembly resolution on eradicating lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem by the year 2020, Global 2000 initiated a community-based lymphatic filariasis eradication and urinary schistosomiasis control project in Nigeria, focused on health education and oral drug therapy. Building on the infrastructure of the river blindness programme, the project, with assistance from WHO and the World Bank, is distributing the drugs Zentel™ and Mectizan™ to treat lymphatic filariasis and the drug Praziquantel™ to treat urinary schistosomiasis.

Meetings and conferences on lymphatic filariasis, attended by participating countries, included: the October 1998 partners meeting, at WHO; the February 1999 conference, at Annecy, France; and the May 1999 meeting of principals, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Trachoma control programme

Global 2000 collaborates with the VVHO Programme for the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness and the GET2020 Alliance, an international coalition dedicated to eliminating blindness and vision loss caused by trachoma. Global 2000 is a joint sponsor of a trachoma rapid assessment project in northern Ghana.

Since beginning its trachoma control activity in 1998, Global 2000 has co-sponsored the following meetings and workshops on trachoma control: to the GET2020 meeting in Ouazarzate, Morocco, including sponsorship of the Niger delegation; the VVHO Institut d'Opthalmologie tropicale de l'Afrique (IOTA) workshop for Francophone countries, held in Bamako, Mali (26-30 April 1998); a VMO-sponsored workshop in Accra, Ghana (30 November-2 December 1998); the intercountry workshop in Cambridge, United Kingdom (14-18 December 1998); and a meeting on programme evaluation and monitoring in Annecy, France (12-13 May 1998).

International human rights

In 1994 the Carter Center's International Human Rights Council was formed to work for the establishment of an international criminal court, which would bring the

world's most brutal criminals to justice in cases where such persons were not within the reach of conventional courts. Two consultative meetings were held: one at the Carter Center in Atlanta, in November 1997, which brought together non-governmental organizations, members of the United States Government, and academicians to examine issues confronting the United States Government; and a meeting in June 1998 for officials from the United States Government and the non-governmental organization community to bridge the remaining gaps in the establishment of a permanent international criminal court. The Carter Center fully participated in the United Nations-sponsored treaty conference in Rome which led to approval of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 17 July 1998. The Carter Center's Human Rights Committee will continue to foster dialogue between the United States Government and the non-governmental organization community regarding the ICC.

4. Liberal International

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

The Liberal International (LI), founded in 1947, is a world union of 83 liberal political parties from 54 countries and territories. The organization coordinates the international activities of the member parties and provides a platform for exchange of ideas and experiences. It aims at promoting freedom, tolerance, democracy, international understanding, human rights and an economy based on free market principles. At the time of the previous quadrennial report, LI had 73 member parties in 46 countries. The expansion has been in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and, to a lesser extent, Asia.

In May 1994, in response to a letter from the Director-General of UNESCO, requesting comments on the draft medium-term plan for 1996-2001 and the draft programme budget for 1996-1997, the Bureau of LI prepared a series of comments focusing on orienting UNESCO even more towards the involvement of citizens.

In September 1994, during the LI Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland, the Liberal International Prize for Freedom was presented to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata. The Prize is in recognition not only of her personal commitment to helping refugees worldwide but also of UNHCR as a whole. Ms. Ogata attended the LI Executive Committee meeting of May 1995 in Bern, Switzerland, to receive the Prize in person.

In 1994 and 1995, at meetings in Lilongwe and Cape Town, and in Manila and Taipei, respectively, the African and Asian groups of LI strengthened their cooperation. Built around the European Parliament, the European network of liberal parties became ever stronger and more effective.

In cooperation with the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, based in Montreal, Canada, the Socialist International (SI) and the International Democratic Union (IDU), a meeting on human rights was organized in Ottawa in April 1995. In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the participating organizations called for increased funding for the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and global implementation of the various United Nations declarations and covenants on human rights.

The 1995 Prize for Freedom was presented to Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma. Requests by Sir David Steel, President of LI, to visit her to present the Prize were declined by the Burmese authorities, who argued that a visit by the President of Liberal International was "not convenient".

LI's International Network of Liberal Women played an active role during the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995). A substantial delegation was present in Beijing, and a special booklet, titled "The status of women" was presented at the Conference.

The assassination of LI Vice-President Jorge Carpio Nicolle in Guatemala in 1993 has continued to be a focus of the activities of LI's Human Rights Committee throughout the past years. The Committee, in cooperation with LI member parties, has worked to keep pressure on the Guatemalan authorities to start a serious investigation and bring the perpetrators to justice.

LI was the first political international organization to be present on the World Wide Web and use this new technology to involve and inform internally as well as externally. The site (located at http://www.worldlib.org) is still one of the main international political sites and is complemented by a weekly newsletter by e-mail available to anyone. The whole project was and is managed in cooperation with other international liberal organizations. LI has been making efforts to expand the use of this new technology, especially into developing countries. This has been an ongoing project since 1995. The Web site links directly to United Nations institutions, and the newsletter regularly contains information on United Nations institutions and issues.

In June 1996, the Prize for Freedom was awarded to Martin Lee, QC, democracy activist from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China.

In September 1996, Liberal International was represented at the forty-ninth annual DPI/NGO conference which took place at LI headquarters in New York.

In March 1997, Liberal International was represented at the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

The 1997 Prize for Freedom was awarded to Olusegun Obasanjo, former Head of State and democracy activist of Nigeria. Mr. Obasanjo continues to remain in prison.

At LI congresses in September 1994, June 1996 and November 1997, the United Nations was always on the agenda. Resolutions dealing with the United Nations and its special organizations and issues of disarmament and peacekeeping were adopted. In his speech at the 1997 Congress, LI President Frits Bolkestein called for increased funding for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has been invited to all these congresses.

Throughout the period 1994-1997, LI has attended meetings of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. These meetings are gatherings of national parliamentarians representing all of Europe. LI also participated in the various NGO forums of the Council of Europe.

In the period 1994-1997 LI published 19 issues of the newsletter *London Aerogramme*. Also published were a booklet on the Fourth World Conference on Women; a book *Working to End Domestic Violence*, with many recommendations for action; a handbook titled "Local politics toolkit; and a book on the history of Liberal International, *A Sense of Liberty*. On 31 October 1996, LI started publishing a weekly newsletter by e-mail which is available to member parties and the general public.

5. World Organization of Building Officials

(Special consultative status granted 1987)

The World Organization of Building Officials has been active in its endeavour to support the Charter of the United Nations during the years 1995-1998 and continues to perform its activities through its status with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in support of advancing education in the building sciences through dissemination of knowledge on technology, legislation and construction, and in promoting shelter for the homeless. It has the power to do all or any of the following: disseminate information and views already available in regard to the primary object of the organization; promote safeguards from potential hazards; find ways of preventing fires in existing buildings and those under construction; promote the concept of standardizing construction materials, equipment, appliances and related matters, in cooperation with other disciplines; pool the resources of members in order to facilitate consideration of mutual concerns and find ways and means of promoting unification of legislation on building, fire and allied codes, procedures, practices and directives; promote cooperation among professional, scientific, skilled and lay groups that have aims and interests similar to those of the organization; and encourage and promote in all countries communication among citizens with respect to the advancement of the primary object of the organization and, in that connection, to encourage the formation in every country of national organizations of building officials.

There was an increase in geographical membership, no substantial change in resources or funding; and no affiliation to an international non-governmental organization in consultative status.

1995

Between 2 and 8 April 1995, International Building Safety Week was observed to promote across the globe the use and understanding of construction and building codes and their effective code enforcement, in an effort to ensure the construction of safe and sound buildings. The sponsors were Building Officials and Code Administrators International, the Council of American Building Officials, the International Code Council, the International Conference of Building Officials, the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards, the Ontario Building Officials Association, the Southern Building Code Congress International, and the World Organization of Building Officials.

Between 14 and 20 May 1995 the Pacific Rim Conference of Building Officials was held at Darwin, Australia, hosted by the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors and sponsored by the World Organization of Building Officials. The Board of Governors and members of the World Organization attended the Conference where 47 papers were presented.

On 2 October 1995, World Habitat Day was observed.

Between 19 and 22 November 1995 the Vice President of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the Dubai International Conference on Best Practices, hosted by the municipality of Dubai, in anticipation of the third session

of the Preparatory Committee for the Habitat II Conference, planned for June 1996 at Istanbul, Turkey.

1996

Between 7 and 13 April 1996 International Building Safety Week was promoted across the globe, focusing on the theme "A safer world is on the horizon".

In June 1996 the President and Governors of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at Istanbul, Turkey.

On 7 October 1996 World Habitat Day was observed.

Between 2 and 9 November 1996 the Fourth World Congress of Building Officials was held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It was sponsored by the Building Department of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, and the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, made the opening speech. Delegates from Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Falkland Islands, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United States, and the United Kingdom presented papers focusing on the theme "Built environment at the crossroads: towards a sustainable future".

1997

Between 6 and 12 April 1997 International Building Safety Week was promoted across the globe.

Between 28 April and 7 May 1997 the founding President of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements in Nairobi.

On 14 May 1997 the Board of Governors of the World Organization of Building Officials held its meeting at Dubai and later met with representatives of the United Arab Emirates Contractors Association.

On 6 October 1997 World Habitat Day was observed.

1998

On 9 March 1998 the Board of Governors of the World Organization of Building Officials held its meeting in Northampton, United Kingdom, at facilities provided by the Association of Building Engineers, whose representatives also participated in the meeting. A representative of the Consortium of European Building Control enlightened the Board with the purpose and mission of the Consortium, including its origins and current projects. The Consortium comprises 19 organizations from 14 countries. A representative of the Association d'experts européens du bâtiment et de la construction, a European organization for building surveyors representing 12 national organizations and over 80,000 building surveyors, presented information on the Association. It was proposed that the Consortium and the Association consider joining the World Organization of Building Officials. Each organization would proceed with its own activities and the World Organization of Building Officials would accommodate the resulting national and regional systems.

Between 5 and 11 April 1998 International Building Safety Week was promoted across the globe, with the theme "For a safer tomorrow".

On 12 May and 8 September 1998 the founding President of the World Organization of Building Officials met with the Acting Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in Nairobi and his colleagues to discuss building a Hassan Fathy House at Habitat headquarters and the possibility of revising the building, planning and other construction-related codes and regulations for those countries that had not yet done so.

Between 6 and 12 September 1998 the founding President of the World Organization of Building Officials attended the 76th annual Education and Code Development Conference of the International Conference of Building Officials at San Diego, California, United States. Between 22 and 28 September 1998 the founding President attended Building Materials Expo '98, which included a major conference for the building and construction industry, in Nairobi.

On 5 October 1998 World Habitat Day, focusing on the theme "Safer cities", was observed.

WOBO News is published biannually. The quarterly *WOBO newsletter* is published by the South-west Pacific region of the organization.